



# Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program Fact Sheet

## *Background*

In 2003, the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) initiated the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Cooperative Agreement Program. The purpose of the Environmental Justice CPS Cooperative Agreement Program is for EPA to provide financial assistance to **affected local community-based organizations** who wish to engage in constructive and collaborative problem-solving by utilizing tools developed by EPA and others to find viable solutions for their community's environmental and/or public health concerns. All awards will be in the amount of \$100,000.00 to be used over a three-year period.

OEJ, in coordination with the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG), has developed an Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model, upon which this Cooperative Agreement Program is based. The following are the seven elements to the Model:

- □ Issue Identification, Community Vision and Strategic Goal Setting;
- □ Community Capacity Building;
- □ Consensus Building and Dispute Resolution;
- □ Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Resource Mobilization;
- □ Supportive and Facilitative Role of Government;
- □ Management and Implementation; and
- □ Evaluation, Lessons Learned, and Replication of Best Practices.

## *Results of 2003 Solicitation*

EPA received 189 applications in response to its May 2003 Request for Applications. A Review Panel examined the applications and recommended 30 projects to be awarded.

You can view these selected projects at:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/>

## *Next Solicitation*

OEJ expects to conduct a second solicitation in FY 2005 if funds are available. Visit the Web site after April 2005 to find out when the next solicitation will be announced.

## *To Be Eligible To Receive a Cooperative Agreement Under This Program,*

You must be an **“affected local community-based organization.”**

A “local community-based organization” is defined for this Cooperative Agreement Program as an entity/organization that is:

- (1) at the most basic level of the organizational hierarchy such as a grassroots group/neighborhood organization that is not affiliated with a larger national, regional or state organization;
- (2) located in the same area as the environmental and/or public health problem that is described in the application and where the residents of the affected community reside;

(3) focused primarily on addressing the environmental and/or public health problems of the residents of the affected community; and

(4) comprised primarily of members of the affected community.

“Affected” is defined as being in the locale which is influenced or altered by the environmental and/or public health problem.

**T** An applicant must meet all of the above requirements and must explain how its organization fits each of those requirements in the application.

**T** An applicant must be a nonprofit organization as demonstrated through designation by the Internal Revenue Service as a Section 501 (c)(3) organization in order to receive Federal funds under this Cooperative Agreement Program.

**T** The following is a list of entities **ineligible** to receive Federal funds under this Cooperative Agreement Program:

- Individuals;
- Universities;
- State governments;
- Local governments;
- Tribal governments;
- Water districts or similar entities;
- Large non-governmental organizations such as national environmental groups;
- Environmental justice networks; and
- Organizations that are not located in the affected communities where the projects are found.

## ***Contact:***

- For issues concerning administrative and process questions, please contact the Project Officer, Linda K. Smith, via e-mail [smith.linda@epa.gov](mailto:smith.linda@epa.gov) or by fax to 202-501-1162, or by phone (202-564-2602) or Toll-Free: 800-962-6215.
- For issues about individual projects or to find out more about the technical aspects of a project, please contact the OEJ CPS Cooperative Agreement Program Manager, Marva E. King, via e-mail [king.marva@epa.gov](mailto:king.marva@epa.gov) or by fax to 202-501-1163, or by phone (202-564-2599) or Toll-Free: 800-962-6215.

## ***Selection Process***

A Review Panel reviews, evaluates, scores and ranks the applications received under each solicitation. After the Review Panel reaches a consensus on the scores and the rankings of the applications, the OEJ Decision Official selects from the highest scored applications for recommendation of awards to the Grants Administration Division.